



DGS Communicator



Congratulations to DGS!

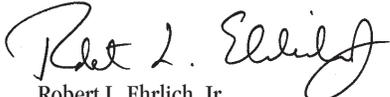
As the first Department in State government to receive full certification for your Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), DGS joins the State Highway Administration and the Department of Natural Resources in receiving certification from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. This year-long effort by more than 30 of your colleagues is commendable.



The completion of COOP planning is vital to the security of our citizens by ensuring the State's critical functions continue during a man-made or natural disaster. I appreciate your leadership in developing these plans.

Additionally, the employees of DGS are to be congratulated on the continuing effort to look for new and inventive ways to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. I look forward to your upcoming electric power saving initiative. And it is impressive that your Customer Service survey of the General Assembly found that more than 90 percent of the members reported the DGS Facilities Operations staff to be professional, responsive and courteous.

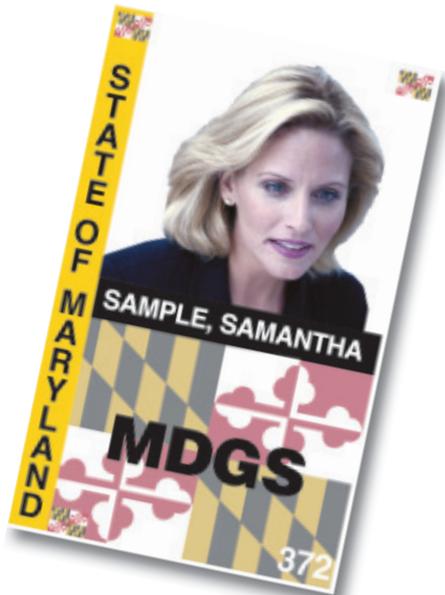
Keep up the good work DGS!


Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

New State Employee ID Badges On The Way

Since early December, DGS Police ID Card units in Annapolis and Baltimore have become digital sharpshooters – that is digital camera shooters. The ID Units, assisted by a contract vendor, are taking photos of State employees, members of the General Assembly, the Governor's Staff and members of the media for new State ID badges. So far, more than 20,000 photos have been snapped.

The new, more secure ID badge will have a vertical configuration with a much larger photo of the badge holder. There are graphically different badges depending on your workplace.



For example, the new DGS badge will have a different look and color scheme than the new badge designed for the Governor's staff.

The new ID badge system is expected to replace the current system later this year. When employees are given the new ID badge, they must return the current badge.

Turn It Off!

With energy costs continuing to rise, DGS is about to launch a conservation plan... and we need YOUR help! The Facilities Operations and Maintenance campaign, designed to create electricity savings, is called "TURN IT OFF!"

While DGS has proactively awarded energy contracts to help hold the line on the electricity

prices the State pays, the cost – like your home electric bill – will still be higher than last year.

By turning off your office lights when you leave your office for more than 15 minutes, you can help. Other measures we can take are to use daylight instead of electric light, when possible, and turning off office machines overnight. The payoff for these savings means reducing the likelihood for future budget cuts.

As the "TURN IT OFF!" campaign begins, you will see posters on bulletin boards and a reminder on your light switch. You have the power to make this energy conservation effort work.



Name Change

With a larger role in Commerce, one of Five Pillars of the Ehrlich-Steele Administration, DGS has expanded the role of the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) office. With the addition of the State's Small Business Reserve program to its menu of services, the MBE office has a new name: the Office of Business Enterprise. The new director of the office is Rhonda Amenu-El, who joined DGS late last year.

A Message from Secretary Rutherford

DGS employees, in fact, all State employees, make Maryland a better place to live. Many of you could earn far greater salaries in the private sector, but instead choose government service. Your good work is reflected in the FY 2006 State budget that Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. has submitted to the General Assembly.



The Governor has proposed \$100 million for State employee compensation adjustments. This is the second year in a row that Governor Ehrlich has added compensation for employees after two years with no increases. The budget calls for a cost of living adjustment of two percent in addition to step increases.

As you will read in this newsletter, DGS and its employees are involved in significant State projects — two of them involve critical State security. DGS Police are engaged in the new State ID badge project that will give employees a true security card.

Additionally, our Office of External Affairs, with strong year-long assistance from each division, has completed the Department's Continuity of Operations Plans. I am proud to say DGS was the first State agency notified of full certification.

DGS is producing real leadership and real results in State government.

Boyd K. Rutherford
Secretary

CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor



Supporting the mission: From his barracks with the Ravens banner to target practice, a look at life in Afghanistan for a DGS Police Officer.

Postcard from “Enduring Freedom”

Police Officer Vincent Kurek is back in the DGS fold after serving a year with a **Maryland National Guard** military police company in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Headquartered in Kabul, Staff Sgt. Kurek performed law enforcement combat missions.

A 20-year U.S. Army veteran, Kurek was previously called to duty on September 11, 2001 and served one year active duty for force protection at the Pentagon and at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Although he's been back since July, we wanted to say 'Welcome Back' and to share some of his photos with our readers.



A Tip of the Hat: After serving the State for 43 years, DGS Maintenance Supervisor Raymond Rosati is recognized by the Board of Public Works and Secretary Rutherford on his retirement. Mr. Rosati's Governor's Citation commended him for his "dedicated service...and attentiveness and commitment to the historic Maryland State House, Government House and the Annapolis State Office Center."



Medal Awarded: DGS Police Chief Warner Sumpter presents Governor Ehrlich with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal as Secretary Rutherford applauds.

Governor Ehrlich Honored for Supporting Marylanders Called to Duty in War Against Terrorism

At a Veterans' rally in February, Army General Warner Sumpter surprised Governor Ehrlich when he announced he was presenting the Governor with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. General Sumpter, now the DGS Chief of Police, told the Governor, "It is my honor to represent the many men and women of our armed forces serving our State and nation in the global war on terrorism."

The citation read: "You are awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service and support to the soldiers, civilians and families of the United States Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve . . . and serve as a beacon of leadership for all Marylanders."

The Governor thanked General Sumpter, who for more than six months had been recalled to active duty to serve as commander of the United States Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He returned to his duties as DGS Police Chief last November.

Lawmakers Give High Marks for Customer Service

In order to maintain the level of service our State agency customers expect, DGS Divisions – in conjunction with the Office of External Affairs – are asking key stakeholders their opinions in annual customer service surveys.

Facilities Operations and Maintenance (FOM) sent the first survey to the 188 members of the General Assembly to determine the quality of the work environment in the Annapolis legislative buildings. The 105 responses were highly

favorable. Receiving the highest marks for FOM were for staff responsiveness, professionalism, and courtesy.

New surveys are being prepared to send customer agencies housed in facilities leased by the DGS Office of Real Estate, and to State agencies impacted by the DGS Maintenance Engineering program, a unit of Facilities Planning, Design and Construction. Customer satisfaction is a key element of the Department's mission and goals.

First in State on COOP

Thanks to many hours of hard work and to a dedicated team, DGS has become the first State agency to receive full certification on its Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. COOP planning began a year ago and was approved in February.

The COOP plan identifies essential functions of DGS and how the Department will maintain these functions in time of a man-made or natural disaster. Later this year, DGS will stage a disaster drill to maintain a constant state of readiness.

Special thanks to DGS COOP Team leader Dave Humphrey and team members Ruth McClelland, Marci Stierhoff, Bill Gluck, Paul Kozlovsky, Jean Band, Karl Berntson, Ray Kaliush, Jim Rohrbach, Cathy Berry, Barry Durgin, Kelly Walker, Mark Mascarenhas, Ray Simms, Janice Howell, Diana Walton, Doug Jones, Kathy Bell, Barbara Bauman, Mike Jones, Sherlynn Hammond, James Rigney, Wendy Scott-Napier, Linda McGovern, Linda Trimper, Martha Delea, Capt. Steve Lating, Sgt. Chris Outten, Sgt. Tony Florio, Craig Schneider, Carolyn Anderson, Mike Zimmerman, Kathy Wilson, Claude Misher, Charlie Stevenson, Andrew Krug, Deputy Secretary Steve Cassard and each Assistant Secretary.

New Museum "On Time, On Budget"

Governor Ehrlich and Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele applauded when Secretary Rutherford announced the new Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture came in "on time and on budget."

The Governor and Lt. Governor along with State Delegate Marshall Goodwin, State School Superintendent Dr. Nancy Grasmick, and members of the Museum Board toured the nearly-completed \$33.3 million DGS construction project last month. The 82,000 square-foot facility, scheduled to open in June, will house the largest African American Museum on the East Coast. It will include 15,000 square feet of exhibition space, a 200-seat theater, a café, a gift shop, and conservation/storage space.



Old Becomes New: The Maryland Public Safety Education and Training Center is expected to provide advanced training for 25,000 officers each year.

DGS Project aids Maryland Police Officers

Maryland law enforcement agencies have opened the State's first police training campus, a sprawling facility built on a site that once served as home to thousands of mentally ill patients in Carroll County. The Maryland Public Safety Education and Training Center, built on the redeveloped Springfield Hospital Center site in Sykesville, is expected to serve as the primary spot for police and corrections officers to receive advanced training in the State.

The 48-acre campus opened last summer with what DGS construction officials call a near-perfect meshing of new construction with original buildings.

The facility comprises 182,000 total square feet, including a new 35,000-square-foot classroom building attached to two renovated buildings constructed for the hospital in the early 1900s. The older buildings house small classrooms and offices, while the new building is home to larger lecture halls, a dining hall, library and television studio.

The facility also includes a driver training facility, two 16,000-square-foot dormitories to house trainees, and a 28,000-square-foot physical training center. Plans for an additional facility designed to train police for "urban warfare" are also under way.

Law enforcement officials said the facility will allow police and correctional agencies to provide a uniform set of training rules. At least 11 Maryland agencies are expected to use the site, and 25,000 officers will visit there each year.

Faster Speeds for Computer Users

Thanks to networkMaryland, the State's digital communication backbone, DGS computer users are experiencing faster e-mail and Internet communications. As part of Governor Ehrlich's Five Pillars, one of them Commerce, the build-out schedule for networkMaryland is being accelerated with a point of presence to be established in every jurisdiction this year. Already, the University System and Johns Hopkins are using the network to share extremely large research files and attract additional grant money.

The technology infrastructure provides DGS much greater bandwidth, allowing larger volumes of data traffic to flow in and out of our network.

From the outside, those accessing DGS websites such as GroupWise WebAccess, the Small Business Reserve, and Statewide Contracts will experience faster response times. Even those users accessing GroupWise WebAccess from a dial-up connection, should notice improvements to the website.



Making the Cut: Governor Ehrlich lends a hand as Chief Judge Robert Bell and State Senator Ida Ruben cut the ribbon officially opening the new \$27 million Silver Spring District Court building. The highly-visible DGS construction project, which created 400 jobs, came in on time and under budget allowing DGS to return almost \$500,000 to the State's general fund.



Under Construction: The new state-of-the-art Maryland State Police Forensic Science Lab, a \$24 million DGS project to be completed this fall, will help make Maryland a safer place to live.



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